



CITY OF MELBOURNE



HEALTH COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 1925

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Alderman Stapley (Chairman).
Alderman Burton (Died April 22, 1925).
Councillor Sir George Cuscaden.
Councillor Kent Hughes.
Councillor Kane.
Councillor Smith (Elected April 27, 1925).
Councillor Westley.

The Health Committee have the honor to submit their report for the year 1925.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS.

The Report of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T. W. Sinclair, relating to the vital statistics of the City, the prevalence of epidemic diseases, the measures taken to prevent the spread of infection, and the work of the Inspectorial Staff, is attached hereto, together with Reports by Dr. Annie D. Hensley, regarding the progress of the Council's Anti-Diphtheria Campaign, and by Messrs. Dunn and Son, City Analysts, and Dr. R. J. Bull, Director of Bacteriological Laboratory, University of Melbourne.

STATISTICS.

According to the return of the Government Statist, the estimated mean population of the City in 1925 was 101,780, which represents a decrease of 180, as compared with the previous year. The number of births in 1925, including those which occurred in the Women's Hospital, and the Queen Victoria Hospital, was 4,222. Excluding the figures for both hospitals, the number of births is equivalent to a rate of 13.48 per 1,000. The deaths from all causes numbered 954, as compared with 1,115 in the previous year. The general death rate, 9.33 per 1,000, is 1.60 per 1,000 less than in 1924, and it is gratifying to note that this is the lowest on record for the City.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of children under the age of one year registered during the year numbered 194, the number for the year 1924 being 235. Excluding the Hospital figures, the number of deaths is equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of approximately 71 per 1,000 births, and is the second lowest ever recorded for the City.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 89 cases of scarlet fever during the year, or .87 per 1,000. This represents a decrease of 137 in comparison with the figures for the previous year. The number of deaths (2) was, however, the same as in the previous year, and is equivalent to a rate of .019 per 1,000. The

Council's nurse paid 52 visits to the homes of sufferers, and five to institutions in order to ensure adequate measures being taken to prevent the spread of infection, and to distribute the precautionary leaflet issued by the Council.

Inspection disclosed insanitary defects at 26 dwellings, for which notices under the Health Act were subsequently issued.

The number of cases of diphtheria shows a large reduction, 163 cases being notified in 1925, as compared with 342 in the previous year. This is equivalent to an attack rate of 1.60 per 1,000, and is the lowest for a period of nineteen years.

There was only one death—a boy aged five years, who did not attend school and had not been schick-tested or actively immunised against the disease. The death rate, .009 per 1,000, is the lowest on record for the City.

Visits totalling 237 were paid by the Council's Nurse to homes in order to enforce isolation, and 517 swabbings were obtained from cases and contacts for bacteriological examination, while 248 visits were made to various schools and institutions for the same purpose.

The anti-diphtheria campaign, inaugurated by the Committee in 1924, was continued during the year under review, and full details of the work are contained in the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Dr. A. D. Hensley, which are attached hereto. The incidence of cases in the 5 to 15 years of age group for 1925 shows a pronounced relative fall of over 35 per cent. on the average for the same age group for the previous ten years.

It is not claimed that the Council's campaign against diphtheria and the introduction of the Schick Test and active immunisation have been wholly responsible for the strikingly favourable incidence and mortality during 1925, but it is submitted that sufficient evidence has been furnished to indicate that these newer measures of prevention are playing an important part in the reductions which have been shown, and still more favourable results are hoped for in the future.

Four cases of typhoid fever were reported in 1925, which represents an incidence rate of .03 per thousand, and is the lowest number reported in any one year. Only one death occurred. This is the seventh successive year in which there has been only one death from this disease. With a view to proper measures being taken to prevent the spread of infection, six visits were paid to the homes by the Council's Nurse.

Notifications of 107 cases of tuberculosis were received. The number of deaths (83) is equivalent to a rate of .81 per thousand, as compared with .87 per thousand for the previous year. The Council's Nurse paid 1,337 visits to the homes, and gave advice on methods of preventing the spread of infection, and enforced observance of the Council's requirements.

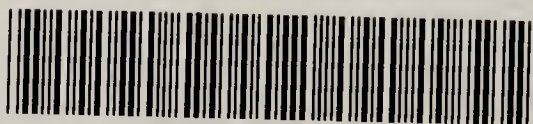
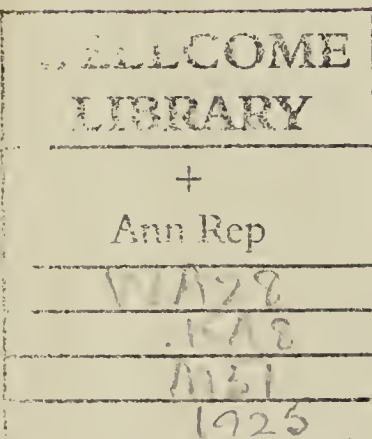
CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

There were thirteen cases of Poliomyelitis during the year, as compared with two in the previous year. The figures for 1925 and 1913 are the highest on record for the City since the disease was made notifiable. Two deaths occurred.

The increased incidence of Poliomyelitis in the metropolitan area of Melbourne during the first half of the year following on the extensive outbreak which occurred in New Zealand during the summer of 1924-25 caused some degree of apprehension to Public Health authorities responsible for the control and prevention of this notifiable disease.

A scheme for combating Poliomyelitis was, therefore, initiated by the Committee in April and the services of Dr. Jean Macnamara, who has special knowledge of the clinical laboratory methods of diagnosis, were obtained to assist in special measures to be taken against it.

As the incidence of the disease affected the whole Metropolis, a conference of Metropolitan Medical Officers of Health was held in May, on the Committee's recommendation, when it was resolved that these measures should be extended to the whole Metropolis. The State Government agreed to contribute £1 for £1 with the municipalities towards the cost of the scheme, and voted a sum of £390 for one year's operations.



With five exceptions, the metropolitan municipalities approved of the scheme.

The measures for prevention and preparation of human serum for early treatment of cases were controlled by a small Executive Committee of representative Medical Officers of Health, of which the Council's Medical Officer of Health (Dr. T. W. Sinclair) was Chairman.

The Directors of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (Dr. C. F. Kellaway) and of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (Dr. W. J. Penfold) kindly co-operated with the Executive Committee in connection with the taking of blood and preparation of serum for treatment of patients.

It is considered that the attention directed to cases in the first half of the year was largely responsible for the reduction in the incidence of the disease in the latter half of the year, and in minimising the number of carriers.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The Council's contribution towards the maintenance of the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital for 1925 amounted to £8,024/15/1, as compared with £6,704/0/6 for the previous year.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY EPIDEMIC HOSPITAL.

A reply to the deputation from the conference of Metropolitan Municipalities which waited upon the Minister of Public Health on August 7, 1924, and urged the State Government to provide for the cost of erecting the proposed Emergency Epidemic Hospital, was received from the Department of Public Health to the effect that the responsibility of providing accommodation for the infectious sick lies on Councils, in accordance with the provisions of the Health Act and in the event of the occurrence of any infectious disease not treated at the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, Fairfield, it would be the duty of each Council to make the necessary provision.

The City Council expressed its willingness to act in combination with the other municipalities in providing the necessary hospital accommodation, but as the majority of the municipalities did not favour the proposal, no further action has been taken in the matter.

HEATHERTON SANATORIUM.

The Council's contribution towards the maintenance of the Heatherton Sanatorium for 1925 was £1,491/6/2, as compared with £1,546/18/10 for 1924.

SMOKE NUISANCE.

Thirty complaints of smoke nuisance were received during 1925, and 183 inspections and observations were undertaken. Alterations were effected at nine premises for prevention of nuisances from smoke.

CONDEMNATION OF HOUSES.

Vigilance regarding the insanitary condition of premises was again exercised by the Committee. During last year 548 premises were condemned, of which 326 were repaired, 31 demolished, and at 191 work was in progress at the end of the year. Two stables were also condemned, of which one was demolished and the other discontinued. It is interesting to note that 1,108 premises in the City have been demolished since 1913, under orders made by the Council on the recommendation of the Committee.

FOOD.

During the year 326 samples of various kinds of food were purchased for the purpose of analysis in accordance with the provisions of the Health Act. The samples comprised:—Milk, 289; mustard, 12; white pepper, 11; ground ginger, 6; powdered cinnamon, 1; ground nutmeg, 1; sausage meat, 6. The number of milk samples (16) below the standard was equivalent to a percentage of 5.5. No samples were found to contain any prohibited preservative.

The total number of adulterated samples of all foods was 19, in respect of which proceedings were taken, resulting in fines and costs to the amount of £87/2/6 being inflicted.

Prosecutions were also instituted in respect of 42 breaches of the Health Act and Regulations, the fines and costs imposed amounting to £172/8/-, as against 64 breaches (£190/17/-) in 1924.

Twenty-eight seizures of food unfit for human consumption, or in contravention of the Health Act were made, and food utensils in defective condition were seized in nine instances.

EATING HOUSES.

During the year 352 eating houses were registered, 54 were partly reconstructed, and 23 were abolished. Proceedings for breaches of the regulations were taken in eleven cases, in respect of which fines and costs amounting to £62 were imposed.

With a view to exercising close supervision over these premises in the interests of the public, 7,980 inspections were made during the year by the Council's Health Inspectors.

PREMISES FOR MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM, AERATED WATERS, ETC.

The number of premises for the manufacture of ice cream and aerated waters registered with the Council last year was 149, corresponding with the number for the previous year. Inspections totalling 2,069 were made of these premises, and 7,887 inspections were made of other food premises during the year. Fifty-eight premises were partly constructed and eighteen were abolished. In fourteen instances prosecutions were instituted, fines and costs amounting to £31 being imposed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Committee have continued to exercise supervision over offensive trade businesses, totalling 98 in the City, no fewer than 698 inspections having been made during the year by the Council's Health Inspectors. Three prosecutions for offences were instituted, fines and costs amounting to £5 being imposed. Three new premises were registered, of which one was newly-erected, while seven were partly reconstructed. In the Council's Report to the Commission of Public Health, in accordance with the Commission's requirements, is a full list of the premises registered in the City as offensive trade establishments.

REGISTRATION OF BOARDING HOUSES.

The number of boarding houses registered with the Council last year was 674, as compared with 661 for the previous year, while 39 were partly reconstructed and 59 were abolished. Inspections totalling 2,385 were made by the Council's Health Inspectors.

FACTORIES.

Three hundred and forty-four applications for registration of premises as factories were dealt with by the Committee last year; 242 were approved, 10 refused, 37 withdrawn, and 55 were under consideration at the end of the year. These premises are registered by the Factories Department, after the Council have approved of the premises being suitable for registration. The number of registered factories and shops in the City is 2,275, and 2,987, respectively.

RAT INFESTATION AND DESTRUCTION.

The number of premises inspected and dealt with in connection with rat destruction in 1925 was 2,452, as against 2,919 in 1924, and the number of rats caught was 10,346 as compared with 9,423 for the previous year. The total amount collected for charges for the service of the rat-catching staff for rat destruction was £1,010/9/10. Structural work for rat prevention was effected at 158 premises. The number of prosecutions was four, in respect of which fines and costs amounting to £7 were imposed.

MATERNAL AND INFANT WELFARE.

Dr. Vera Scantlebury, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, continued her valuable work during the year, and attended and supervised the work of the four City Centres conducted by the Victorian Baby Health Centres' Association. During her absence in New Zealand, where she investigated infant welfare work on behalf of the State Government, her duties were carried out by Dr. Kate Campbell.

A summary of the work carried out at these centres is set out in the report of the Medical Officer of Health attached hereto.

The total amount paid by the Council towards the maintenance of Baby Health Centres for the year 1925 was £607, as against the State Government's contribution of £500.

During the year the Council's Nurse Inspector visited 1,212 infants at their homes, when it was found that ninety per cent. were being naturally fed.

The infantile mortality figures (71 per 1,000) for the year—the lowest on record for the City, with the exception of the year 1917—may be taken as an indication of the value of maternal and infant welfare work, and the result is very gratifying.

A suitable block of land in the Hopetoun Ward, having a frontage of 83 feet to Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne, by a depth of 61 feet, was purchased during the year for the purpose of erecting thereon an up-to-date Baby Health Centre. It is in a centrally-situated position, and the new building will prove a great boon to the residents of North Melbourne.

SPECIAL MILK SUPPLY FOR INFANTS.

Special milk for infants was again supplied at reduced rates, the number of infants participating in the supply being 185, as compared with 204 in 1924.

The supply, which is a pasteurised one, was obtained from the Willsmere Milk Company, under the Government's scheme, and it was continued throughout the whole year. The total cost of supply was £790, about slightly over 45 per cent. of which, viz., £358/12/4, was recovered from the sale of milk coupons to mothers. The milk is supplied free in necessitous cases, but when parents can afford to pay they are expected to do so.

METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY.

At the instigation of the Committee a Conference of representatives of Metropolitan Municipalities was held during the year in regard to the question of securing an improvement in the milk supply for the metropolitan area. The majority of the municipalities favoured brine cooling of milk at its source of production as a means of improving the milk supply, but no action was taken in regard to the question of the establishment of municipal milk depots.

TUBERCULIN TESTING OF DAIRY HERDS.

The Committee have been in communication with the Public Health Department and the Department of Agriculture in regard to the necessity of tuberculin testing of dairy herds supplying milk to the metropolitan area. A reply was received that a sum of money has been placed on the estimates to enable bacteriological and biological tests to be undertaken at the Laboratory of the University Veterinary School in upwards of 2,000 cases to determine the relative presence of tuberculin bacilli in milk being retailed for consumption in Melbourne, and it is considered that this preliminary investigation is a necessary step before undertaking consideration of the larger question of making provision for a system of general tuberculin testing of herds.

DUSTING OF FRESH MEAT WITH PRESERVATIVES.

Butchers were cautioned against the practice of dusting fresh meat with preservatives in contravention of the Health Regulations, and such cautions have had a beneficial effect.

PAPER DRINKING CUPS ADVOCATED.

The Committee strongly advocate the use of paper drinking cups on hygienic grounds.

Containers with cups have been placed in the public conveniences, and the cups are supplied free for drinking purposes.

Representations were made to the Commission of Public Health regarding the unhealthy practice of vendors of soft drinks from street stands washing glasses in a bucket of water or similar receptacle, and the desirability of inserting a clause in the Public Health Regulations providing for the public use of paper drinking cups when beverages or drinks for human consumption are sold in any street or public place was urged. Instructions have now been given by the Commission for a regulation to be drafted to meet the case.

PROPOSED CREMATORIUM.

Consideration was given to a report by the Medical Officer of Health on the subject of disposal of the dead by cremation and the experience gained by him in visiting crematoria in England and America; and representations were made to the managers of the New Melbourne General Cemetery, Fawkner, in regard to the advisability of establishing a crematorium in the interests of public health.

The Committee are pleased to report that a Crematorium is now being erected at the New Melbourne General Cemetery.

NUISANCE CAUSED BY NOISE FROM MOTOR-CYCLES IN COMPETITIONS.

Complaints were received during the year in regard to the nuisance caused by excessive noises from motor-cycles in competitions at the Motor-drome in Batman Avenue, and, on the Committee's recommendation, a by-law was adopted by the Council with the object of preventing a repetition of the nuisance.

TREATMENT AND AFTER-CARE OF CRIPPLES.

The Committee have had under consideration the question of the establishment of an institution for the care and treatment of cripples. It is estimated that .2 of the population, equivalent to 200 for the City of Melbourne, and 1,600 for the Metropolis, suffers more or less from "crippling." To meet this want there is at present only about 20 beds in the Children's Hospital Home at Hampton; but it is proposed to increase the accommodation to provide for eighty cases.

It is estimated that about 20 per cent. of the "crippling" of children under local conditions is due to tuberculosis, 47 per cent. to infantile paralysis, while congenital and other defects are responsible for the balance.

Invalid pensions amounting to £542,698 were paid to 12,220 persons during the year ended June 30, 1924. Over 20 per cent. of invalids are granted pensions before they reach 30 years of age, and one-third of these (about 900) is included under the headings of infantile paralysis, tuberculosis of bones and joints, hemiplegia, accident and disease of the circulatory system, for which, it is pointed out, both here and in New South Wales, much could be done by "After-Care" and education, inasmuch as the majority become cripples before the age of 10 years.

A Conference of Metropolitan Medical Officers of Health of various interested bodies was convened, at the instigation of the Committee, for the purpose of discussing the matter, when it was resolved to approach the State Government and urge the establishment of an institution for care and treatment of cripples.

A deputation waited upon the Minister of Public Health, and submitted this resolution accordingly, and the Committee are now in communication with the Minister on the subject.

COMPULSORY EXAMINATION OF FOOD HANDLERS.

The Committee are of the opinion that the Cleanliness of Food Regulations should be amended to provide for the compulsory examination of food handlers, with the object of preventing infection being spread through contamination of food by anyone suffering from disease of an infectious or contagious nature.

The practice of examining "food handlers" obtains in Canada and the United States, and representations in this direction have accordingly been made to the Commission of Public Health in the interests of public health.

CONTINUATION OF LANE OFF HARKER STREET, NORTH MELBOURNE.

Owing to defective drainage work carried out under the old North Melbourne Council, it was necessary to continue a lane off Harker Street, North Melbourne, through private premises in order to effectively drain the locality and overcome the insanitary conditions.

The powers contained in the Local Government Act 1921 were exercised by the Council, the rear portions of certain premises were compulsorily resumed, and the lane was continued through such premises and made one continuous lane with an effective drainage.

Under the special circumstances the whole cost of the work was borne by the Council.

EARLY REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

The Committee are endeavouring to obtain an amendment of the existing legislation to provide for the early registration of all births, with the object of reducing the infantile death rate. Much of the success of Infant Welfare Work depends upon the necessity of getting into touch with mothers as early as possible after confinement.

Under the existing legislation registration of births may be made as late as sixty days, and it is obvious that much valuable time is lost in imparting necessary advice in regard to both the mother and the child. It is considered that this period is unnecessarily long, and the Government has been requested to amend the Act to provide for the compulsory registration within three days of births in the Metropolis, and within seven days in country districts.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret the Committee record the death on April 22, 1925, of Alderman William Burton, J.P., who was Chairman of the Health Committee for seventeen consecutive years.

His municipal experience extended over a period of thirty years, and he displayed a very keen interest in all matters pertaining to the public welfare, and particularly in health matters, and the Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of his valuable services to the Council, and of his sterling qualities and amiable disposition which endeared him to all who knew him.

APPOINTMENT OF ALDERMAN STAPLEY AS CHAIRMAN.

Alderman Frank Stapley was appointed Chairman of the Committee on the death of Alderman Burton.

GENERAL.

Reference to the attached Report of the Medical Officer of Health will show the detailed work carried out under the Committee during the year.

FRANK STAPLEY,
Chairman.

W. V. McCALL,
Town Clerk.

June 17, 1926.

CITY OF MELBOURNE



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The Chairman, Health Committee—

Sir—I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the City, and the work of this Office, done under the Health Committee for the year 1925.

The estimated mean population is 180 below, and the number of births registered 260 above, the figures for 1924.

The general death rate—9.33 per 1,000—is the lowest ever recorded for the City. (Table 1.) The rates for all groups of diseases were very favourable. The rates for zymotic diseases and for diarrhoeal diseases are the lowest ever recorded for the City. (Table 1.) The rate for tuberculosis was lower than in 1924.

Infantile deaths were much fewer than in 1924, and the infantile mortality rate of 71 per 1,000 births, which is an approximate estimate only, is the lowest ever recorded except for the year 1917.

Scarlet fever was much less prevalent than in 1924 and the four preceding years, but the number of deaths (2) is the same as for the past three years. Diphtheria showed a most pronounced fall, the number of cases reported (163) being the lowest for any year since 1906. The figures are comparable with those for the City before Hopetoun Ward was added. One death only occurred from diphtheria, and the rate—.009 per 1,000—is easily a record for this disease. The campaign against diphtheria by means of Schick testing and Active Immunisation was continued throughout the year, and work progressed smoothly. One noticeable result this year is the marked fall in the relative incidence of the disease in children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. It is in this age group that the great proportion of the work has been carried out. With an extension to other age groups, a further diminution in the incidence of this disease should be expected. The number of cases of Typhoid Fever (4) is the lowest ever recorded for the City in any one year, and three of the cases contracted infection outside of the City. For the seventh consecutive year there has been only one death registered.

Poliomyelitis (13 cases) was more prevalent than in the past six years. This year and 1918 have the highest record for incidence since the disease was made notifiable. Measures for prevention and preparation of human serum for early treatment of cases were conducted in connection with the Metropolitan Scheme instituted against the disease. The deaths (2) are the largest number since 1913.

Dysentery (bacillary) was less prevalent than in 1924, but the number of deaths (1) was the same. Two-thirds of the cases occurred in inmates of the Children's Welfare Depot, Royal Park.

During the year 548 insanitary premises were dealt with under the Health Act. Since 1913 the number of condemned insanitary premises in the City, that have been demolished, is 1,146.

The lower infantile mortality figures are gratifying, and indicate the value of welfare work amongst mothers and infants. Fewer infants received the special supply of milk than in 1924. Dr. Vera Scantlebury

again continued her work of visiting Centres, but for two months at the end of the year, while she was visiting New Zealand to inquire into Child Welfare Work, her duties were satisfactorily carried out by Dr. Kate Campbell.

Progress in the abatement of nuisance from smoke continues by reconstruction of furnaces, use of special apparatus, increase of electric power, and the use of oil fuel.

New legislation under the Health Act 1919, passed during the year, imposes additional duties to be carried out by this office under the Health Committee.

Proceedings were initiated by this office for various breaches of the Health Act and Regulations and of the Council's By-laws in 73 cases, and the total fines and costs imposed amounted to £218/5/-.

Reports of 52 medical examinations of persons joining the Council's service, and of those retiring on account of ill-health, as well as of certain members of the Electrical Supply Department, were furnished during the year.

Miss Carlile was granted leave of absence for six months, and Miss M. E. Brett, who was appointed temporarily, carried out the duties in a satisfactory manner. Inspector H. Lendon resigned and left the Council's service on 30th April. Mr. N. Harris, who was appointed to the vacancy, commenced duty on 6th August, and has shown himself to be an efficient officer.

During the year special reports on a large number of subjects of Public Health importance, incorporating the results of inquiries and observations made during my visit abroad, were presented.

I desire to add here that the staff carried out the numerous duties of the office in an energetic and tactful manner.

POPULATION.

According to a return furnished by the Government Statist, the estimated mean population of the City was 101,780, being 180 less than that for 1924.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered was 4,222, of which 2,396 occurred in the Women's Hospital, and 454 in the Queen Victoria Hospital. Excluding the figures for both hospitals, the balance, 1,372, is equivalent to a birth-rate of 13.48 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population. This rate is an approximate one only for the City.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths of residents of the City registered for all causes was 954, or 161 less than the total for 1924. As in previous reports, the figures have been corrected for deaths occurring in public hospitals of the Metropolis, private hospitals in the City, and three large private hospitals outside of the City. The deaths of City residents in hospitals for the insane throughout the State, as well as those from pulmonary tuberculosis (numbering 29) which occurred in Sanatoria for Consumptives and the Austin Hospital, are also included in the total figures. The total number of deaths is equivalent to a death rate of 9.33 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population, and is 1.60 per 1,000 less than in 1924. The rate for 1925 is the lowest ever recorded for the City, being 1.34 per 1,000 below the next most favourable year—1922—when the rate was 10.67 per 1,000. When the correction for the proportion of deaths of City residents in the Metropolitan Benevolent Institutions is applied, the death rate is raised to 9.66 per 1,000.

Deaths from the principal zymotic diseases numbered 11, compared with 38 in 1924. Measles caused 5 deaths, compared with one last year. Scarlet Fever, with 2 deaths, was the same as in 1924, and Whooping Cough caused 2 deaths, as against 15. Diphtheria caused one death only, the lowest number ever recorded for any year, compared with 9 in the previous year. For the seventh consecutive year there was again only one death from Typhoid Fever. No deaths were recorded from Influenza.

Diseases showing the principal increases over the figures for 1924 were:—Measles, 5 deaths; Tubercular Meningitis, 10; other diseases of the Nervous System, 34; Cirrhosis of Liver, 7; other Genito-urinary diseases, 22; and Developmental Diseases, 48. The principal decreases occurred under the headings of:—Whooping Cough, 2 deaths; Diphtheria, 1; Cancer, 80; Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 1; Diseases of the Heart, 117; Bronchitis, 17; Pneumonia, 46; Prematurity, 30; and Accident, 50.

The deaths in Hospitals for the Insane numbered 38, as in 1924, and the causes were:—Other Nervous Diseases, 14 deaths; all other causes, 5; Pneumonia, 4; Bright's Disease, 3; Senility, 3; Phthisis, 2; Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 2; while Cancer, Diseases of the Heart, Other Diseases of the Circulatory System, Other Diseases of the Respiratory System, and Accident were each responsible for one death.

The following table, to which the corrections mentioned above have been applied, comprises a detailed statement of the causes of death within the City for 1925:—

Typhoid Fever	1
Measles	5
Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	1
Other Epidemic Diseases	2
Phthisis	83
Tubercular Meningitis	10
Other Tubercular Diseases	1
Cancer	80
Diabetes	9
Alcoholism	3
Meningitis	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Infantile Paralysis	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage	36
Convulsions of Infants	1
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	34
Diseases of the Heart	117
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	20
Bronchitis	17
Pneumonia	67
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	40
Diseases of the Stomach	9
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	28
Appendicitis	6
Hernia and Intestinal Obstruction	4
Cirrhosis of the Liver	7
Peritonitis	1
Other Diseases of the Digestive System	15
Bright's Disease (acute and chronic)	69
Other Genito-Urinary Diseases	22
Puerperal Septicæmia	7
Other Puerperal Diseases	9
Prematurity	30
Developmental Diseases	48
Senility	33
Suicide	14
Accident	50
All other causes	58
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	954
	<hr/>
Deaths under one year—all causes	113

A comparison with the figures for previous years is supplied in Table I, showing population and certain death rates for the City:—

TABLE I.
Showing Population and certain Death Rates in the City for the following years:—

Year	Estimated Mean Population	DEATH RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION				Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births
		All Causes	Diarrhoeal Diseases, including Enteritis	Principal Zymotic Diseases, except Diarrhoea	All Tubercular Diseases	
1898	70,387	16.9	2.08	1.50	2.47	188
1899	74,420	13.37	1.51	.96	1.76	157
1900	73,430	12.97	1.18	.40	2.07	112
1901	68,374	15.7	1.28	.67	2.26	134
1902	67,550	15.0	1.58	.60	1.99	117
1903	67,260	13.8	1.15	.40	2.27	105
1904	67,760	12.82	.62	.50	1.71	83
1905	68,940	12.5	.87	.17	1.42	107
1906	98,440	15.4	1.04	.57	1.44	119
1907	98,720	14.1	.68	.41	1.34	80
1908	98,890	15.0	1.14	.17	1.39	103
1909	99,800	13.6	1.84	.46	.99	98
1910	100,570	13.77	1.45	.33	1.13	115
1911	102,180	12.6	1.21	.39	1.27	100
1912	103,330	14.2	1.18	.71	1.07	106
1913	104,210	12.79	.64	.35	1.11	92
1914	105,200	*13.12	.75	.40	1.24	86
1915	105,990	12.71	.57	.50	.84	83
1916	105,182	12.93	.69	.49	1.04	89
1917	105,690	10.88	.35	.24	.91	65
1918	105,770	11.20	.41	.40	.93	74
1919	106,180	15.84	.41	4.73	.88	72
1920	106,560	12.26	.62	.59	1.06	95
1921	105,726	11.53	.66	.25	1.22	107
1922	101,850	10.67	.38	.15	.87	75
1923	101,930	11.72	.62	.53	1.04	109
1924	101,960	10.93	.31	.37	.95	83
1925	101,780	9.33	.27	.10	.92	71

*Since 1914 deaths of residents of the City in Hospitals for Insane have been included.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age registered during 1925 was 194, including the figures for all deaths at the Women's and Queen Victoria Hospitals. Excluding the deaths of infants in the respective hospitals—Women's, 83; Queen Victoria, 13—there is a balance of 98 deaths. It is not possible to obtain accurate information as to the usual place of residence of all mothers who enter these hospitals for their confinements. Omitting, therefore, all births and deaths in hospitals, the balance is equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 71 per 1,000 births. This rate is the second lowest ever recorded for the City (Table 1), but, as explained above, it can only be regarded as an approximate one. The principal decreases for the year occurred under Whooping Cough, 1 death; Bronchitis, 1; Pneumonia, 8; and Prematurity, 30. The only heading showing an appreciable increase was Developmental Diseases, 48 deaths. In the following table the deaths of those infants whose mothers were residents of the City, and which occurred in the above hospitals, have been included:—

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Measles	1
Whooping Cough	1
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1
Meningitis	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	8
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	17
Hernia and Intestinal Obstruction	1

Other Genito-Urinary Diseases	1
Prematurity	30
Developmental Diseases*	48
Accident	1
All other causes	1
	<hr/>
	113

*Under the general heading "Developmental Diseases" are included injury at birth, debility at birth, atelectasis, congenital defects, atrophy, marasmus and dentition.

METEOROLOGY.

The following table, compiled from returns furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, shows that the mean air temperature for the year was 58.2 deg. Fahr., or 1 deg. below the mean for 58 years. Lower mean temperatures were more consistent in the winter months. Higher mean temperatures were most marked in April and October. The year was an unusually dry one, the rainfall being 7.87 inches below the average for 58 years. The more favourable mean temperatures during the hot months probably had a part in reducing the number of deaths from gastro-intestinal disorders amongst infants. The drier conditions in the cold season seemed to favourably influence the number of deaths from respiratory diseases, such as Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL, 1925.

Month	TEMPERATURE IN SHADE			Departure of mean monthly temperature from mean for 58 years (+ or —)	RAINFALL		
	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	Mean for Month		No. of rainy days	Amount in inches	Departure of amount from average for 58 years (+ or —)
January	76.7	56.1	66.4	—1.0	9	3.18	+1.36
February	76.4	58.3	67.4	+ .1	11	1.13	— .60
March	73.8	54.4	64.1	— .4	7	.62	—1.61
April	70.7	52.1	61.4	+1.8	9	1.49	— .82
May	61.3	48.1	54.7	+ .7	9	1.47	— .69
June	57.1	43.0	50.0	— .3	14	.92	—1.18
July	54.1	42.3	48.2	— .3	21	2.31	+ .47
August	57.4	41.2	49.3	—1.7	16	1.36	— .45
September	60.1	44.9	52.5	—1.5	18	1.61	— .73
October	69.6	49.1	59.4	+1.9	13	1.10	—1.52
November	70.7	51.3	61.0	— .2	10	2.01	— .18
December	73.7	55.4	64.6	nil	7	.37	—1.92
Year	66.8	49.7	58.2	— .1	144	17.57	—7.87

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the monthly number of notifications for each disease during 1925:—

[illegible]

SCARLET FEVER.

Eighty-nine cases were notified, equivalent to an attack rate of .87 per 1,000 of the mean population, compared with 226 in 1924. There were 36 attacks in males and 53 in females. As in the previous year, there were two deaths, one in each sex, and equivalent to a death rate of .019 per 1,000. Fourteen of the cases reported were in inmates or staff of various hospitals and Children's Institutions in the City. In 5 instances, investigation showed that infection was probably contracted outside of the City. One case was reported as also suffering from Diphtheria at the same time.

The Council's nurse paid 52 visits to homes and 5 to institutions, in order to enforce measures for the prevention of the spread of the disease, and to distribute the precautionary leaflet. Inspection showed that at 26 dwellings there were defects of an insanitary nature, for which notices under the Health Act were subsequently issued.

There was no evidence that milk supply or attendance at school played any part in the spread of infection. A comparison of the incidence, mortality, and case fatality of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever with that for previous years is shown in Table II., while the distribution of cases in the various Wards of the City is shown in Table III.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was a large reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria, 163 being reported, compared with 342 in 1924. Sixty-two of the attacks were in males, and 101 in females. There was only one death—a boy aged 5 years. This child did not attend school, and had not been Schick-tested or actively immunised against the disease. The number of cases is equivalent to an attack rate of 1.60 per 1,000, and is the lowest since 1906—a period of nineteen years. The death rate—.009 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population—is the lowest ever recorded for the City. Amongst members of the staff or inmates of the various hospitals and Children's Institutions in the City 28 cases, or slightly more than 17 per cent. of the total, were reported, viz.:—Melbourne Hospital, 12; Children's Hospital, 5; Alfred Hospital, 1; Children's Welfare Department, Royal Park, 8; Kildonan and Leonard Street Homes, one each. Investigation showed that in 9 instances infection had probably been contracted outside of the City, while one case was reported as also suffering from Scarlet Fever concurrently with the Diphtheria attack. The Council's nurse paid 237 visits to the homes of patients and 11 to institutions and schools, in order to enforce measures for the prevention of the spread of the disease, and took 517 swabbings for bacteriological examination. On 90 occasions she also gave assistance in the work of Schick-testing and immunisation.

The attached report of Dr. A. D. Hensley contains details of the work in connection with the campaign against the disease during 1925. Interim reports were also furnished by me on the general progress and results of the work. It might, however, be permissible for me to repeat some of the more notable features in regard to the incidence and mortality this year, compared with previous periods. The large regular increase of cases which characterises the autumn and winter months was conspicuous by its absence, as shown in the following table:—

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
1913-1924 (average)	19	24	30	34	44	42	39	36	31	25	26	22	376
1925	13	10	16	14	15	14	10	13	19	16	6	17	163

The Wards where most of the work of testing and immunisation has been done, are Hopetoun, Victoria, and Smith. In the two former there is a decided drop in the percentage incidence. In the case of Smith Ward, the percentage incidence was slightly higher, but the response to immunisation here was less, and, further, the figures for the year include no less than 14 cases occurring in institutions. If allowance be made for these, the percentage for Smith Ward would also show a reduction. The influence of age is well known in Diphtheria, and it is recognised to be a disease principally of childhood and puberty. The incidence of cases in the 5 to 15 years' age group for 1925 shows a pronounced relative fall of over 35 per cent. on the average for the same age group for the previous ten years:—

Period	Under 5 Years	5-15 Years	15 Years and Over	All Ages
1915-1924 (average)	24.6 per cent.	51.2 per cent.	24.2 per cent.	100
1925	23.3 per cent.	33.1 per cent.	43.6 per cent.	100

It is in the 5 to 15 year age group that the great bulk of work has been done, and it is therefore a source of gratification to record such a marked reduction for this group, which is mainly constituted of school children. The low mortality rate for 1925 is unique in the history of the City. The lowest number of deaths previously recorded for any year was 3, and this figure has occurred on two occasions only—viz., in 1900 and 1922—in the past thirty-nine years.

It is not proposed to claim that the campaign against Diphtheria and the introduction of the Schick Test and Active Immunisation have been wholly responsible for the strikingly favourable incidence and mortality during 1925. Sufficient evidence has, I feel, been furnished to indicate that these newer measures of prevention are playing a not inconsiderable part in the reductions which have been shown. With the extension of the work amongst children of pre-school age and in institutions, still more favourable results might be expected.

TABLE II.

Showing the Incidence, Mortality and Case Fatality of Notified Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever in the City for the following years:—

SCARLET FEVER				DIPHTHERIA			TYPHOID FEVER		
Year	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality per cent.	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality per cent.	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality per cent.
1898	106	—	—	154	18	12.68	237	27	11.39
1899	36	—	—	84	10	11.90	164	16	9.75
1900	6	1	16.66	120	3	2.50	118	16	13.56
1901	15	1	6.66	91	4	4.39	86	8	9.30
1902	164	1	.61	122	5	4.09	92	9	9.84
1903	184	1	.54	110	5	4.54	69	5	7.24
1904	165	3	1.81	142	12	8.45	58	6	10.34
1905	28	—	—	142	4	2.81	33	2	6.06
1906	23	—	—	130	9	6.92	95	8	8.42
1907	11	—	—	254	13	5.11	34	3	8.82
1908	85	—	—	213	7	3.28	113	3	2.65
1909	346	13	3.75	194	7	3.60	90	9	10.0
1910	116	3	2.58	326	10	3.06	178	8	4.49
1911	35	1	2.85	485	16	3.29	51	9	17.64
1912	21	—	—	414	32	7.73	52	6	11.54
1913	14	—	—	311	18	5.78	53	5	9.43
1914	38	—	—	297	15	5.05	36	5	13.88
1915	62	1	1.61	463	23	4.96	23	5	21.77
1916	136	1	.73	581	29	4.99	23	4	17.39
1917	141	2	1.41	345	11	3.18	18	3	16.66
1918	150	1	.62	564	10	1.77	11	2	18.18
1919	84	3	3.57	298	22	7.38	8	1	12.50
1920	129	2	1.55	371	10	2.69	8	1	12.50
1921	167	—	—	429	13	3.03	10	1	10.0
1922	112	2	1.78	268	3	1.12	8	1	12.50
1923	165	2	1.21	250	11	4.40	10	1	10.0
1924	226	2	.88	342	9	2.63	10	1	10.0
1925	89	2	2.24	163	1	.61	4	1	25.0

TYPHOID FEVER.

Four cases, two in each sex, were notified, compared with 10 in 1924. This is the lowest number of cases ever reported in any one year. There was, as in the previous six years, only one death—a man aged 21 years. The number of cases is equivalent to an incidence rate of .03 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population, and is a record for the City. The death rate—.009 per 1,000—is the same as for 1924. One case occurred in a nurse employed in a public hospital. Three of the cases were admitted to hospital for treatment. The Council's nurse paid six visits to the homes of cases in order to enforce measures for the prevention of the spread of infection, and to distribute the leaflet of precautions against the disease.

Investigation showed that at least three of the cases probably contracted the disease while resident outside of the City. The favourable figures this year encourage the hope that Typhoid Fever may soon be eliminated from the sickness and mortality tables of the City.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Four cases of the disease were notified by medical practitioners, compared with 6 in the previous year. Seven deaths were registered, of which six were the subject of coroner's inquiry. All cases were admitted to hospital for treatment. The Council's nurse paid five visits to hospitals in order to enforce the regulations under the Midwives Act for the prevention of the spread of infection. The distribution of cases of Puerperal Fever, Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Encephalitis, Dysentery, Malaria and Tetanus in the various Wards of the City is shown in Table III.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Thirteen cases, 8 in males and 5 in females, were notified, compared with 2 in the previous year. The number is equal to that for the year 1918, and, with the latter, is the highest since the disease was made notifiable in 1913, as shown in the following table:—

Year	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Cases reported	1	3	—	4	1	13	1	3	—	—	—	2	13

There were two deaths, both males, aged 1 year and 4 years respectively, in which the disease assumed the cephalic type. Nine of the cases were reported in the months February to June. In seven instances there was delay in notification, owing to the failure of the medical attendant to recognise the early symptoms of the disease. The age-grouping of cases was:—Under 5 years, 9 cases; 5 to 10 years, 2 cases; and 20 to 30 years, 2 cases. The distribution of paralysis was right leg in 5 cases, left leg 3, right arm 2, right leg and back 1, left leg and arm 1, and right leg, arm and side of face 1.

The knowledge of the serious epidemic of 1924 and 1925 in New Zealand, and the increased local incidence, directed attention to the disease, and Dr. Jean Macnamara was appointed in April to assist in special measures to be taken against it. As this matter affected the whole metropolis, a conference of Medical Officers of Health was called in May, at which it was resolved that these measures should be extended to the whole Metropolis. With the exception of five, all Metropolitan Councils approved of the scheme, and the cost was to be apportioned on a population basis. The Government voted a sum of £390 for one year's operations. Special reports on the organisation and working of the scheme were furnished to all Councils by the Executive Committee appointed at the Conference, of which I was Chairman. These reports dealt with such matters as the investigation of cases, arrangements for special clinical and laboratory diagnostic services, selection of "donors" of blood, preparation and administration of immune human serum, "after care" of paralysed cases, and measures for preventing the spread of the disease. The attention directed to cases in the first half of the year doubtless had a favourable influence in reducing the incidence of the disease in the latter half of the year, and in minimising the number of carriers. A special report was presented at the end of the year on the work which had been done, and on the proposed measures for 1926.

The 13 cases reported in the City occurred in separate premises, and investigation by Dr. Macnamara did not disclose any connection between them in relation to source of infection. Two cases—a boy aged 9 years and a girl aged 3 years—which occurred in the City, were treated with immune human serum. The former recovered completely from his attack. The latter recovered from her attack, and on examination four months later the paralysis, which had affected the right arm, had greatly improved, and it was considered that the ultimate result would be good. The important feature of serum treatment is its administration in the pre-paralytic stage. Inspection of the homes of cases showed that in five instances there were

defects of an insanitary nature, for which notices under the Health Act were subsequently issued. The Council's nurse assisted in connection with the conveyance of donors of blood for the preparation of serum to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One case only was notified, compared with 9 in the previous year. The attack occurred in a girl aged 16 months, and proved fatal. The Council's nurse paid four visits in order to enforce precautions against the spread of infection, and took five swabbings, all of which proved negative on bacteriological examination. The source of infection could not be traced, but insanitary defects were found on inspection of the home, and a notice under the Health Act was issued for them.

DYSENTERY.

Twelve cases of Dysentery (bacillary), of which 8 were inmates of the Children's Welfare Depot, Royal Park, were notified, compared with 20 in 1924. The largest number of cases occurred in the months of March and December. There was one death—a boy aged 18 months. Two of those attacked were under one year old, 9 were in their second year, and one was two years old. In six instances it was reported that the micro-organism responsible for the illness was of the Flexner type. Of the two children under one year, one was an inmate of the Depot at Royal Park, and the other had not attended a Baby Health Centre. The former was fed on cow's milk, and the latter was breast-fed, but had only been resident in the City two days before admission to hospital. The Council's nurse paid four visits to the homes of cases, in order to enforce measures against the spread of infection.

ENCEPHALITIS (LETHARGIC).

Two cases, both in adult females, were reported, compared with 3 in 1924, and one proved fatal. The cases were widely separated as to date of attack and place of residence, and the source of infection could not be traced. One of the cases was admitted to hospital for treatment. Two visits were paid to the homes of sufferers by the Council's nurse in order to ensure that precautions against spread were taken. At one house there were insanitary defects, for which a notice under the Health Act was issued.

MALARIA.

One case was reported, in a man aged 34 years. The patient, who was treated in the Melbourne Hospital, was a ship's fireman on the s.s. "Eudunda." The history obtained was that infection had been contracted at Rabual, New Guinea, where his blood had been found to contain the benign tertian form of malarial parasite. He was instructed as to the use of quinine and protection against mosquitoes in case of any recurrence of symptoms of the disease.

TETANUS.

One case, in a boy aged 9 years, was notified. The history given was that he had cut his foot on some rubbish in a lane, when going about without boots on the 14th February. On the 21st February he suffered from choking and convulsive symptoms, and was admitted to the Children's Hospital on the following day. Under treatment he made a good recovery.

ANTHRAX.

On 21st January a report was received from the Public Health Department of a case of anthrax in a man residing at Surrey Hills. The anthrax pustule occurred on the shaving area of the face, and the brush used was reported by the Director of Bacteriological Laboratory at the University, Dr. R. J. Bull, to be infected with anthrax. The brush was an imitation badger hair one, with a short white bone handle. A small red label on

the end of the handle bore the words "British-made—guaranteed free from anthrax—all bristle." It had been purchased at an auction room in the City about the 5th January. The auction room was visited, and 47 shaving brushes of similar make were seized. These brushes were the balance of a parcel bought from a shop in the City. This shop was visited, and, except for two brushes in a show case, no others were found in stock. Other lots of the infected brushes sold at the auction room were recovered, 75 being obtained from three retail shops, and 2 from private persons. Altogether 149 shaving brushes, corresponding to the type of the one found infected, were recovered and seized.

On 13th December a man residing in Fitzroy was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital with an anthrax pustule on the right cheek. The shaving brush used was an imitation badger-hair one, with a varnished yellow wooden handle. There were no marks of place of manufacture or origin. The patient had the brush in his possession for about three years, but used it only during the week immediately preceding his illness.

No case of the disease in City residents was reported during 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notifications received from medical practitioners was 107, of which 96 were for Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 11 for other forms of the disease. The deaths from Phthisis registered during the year numbered 83, compared with 89 in 1924, and are equivalent to the more favourable rate of .81 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population. The number of City cases of Phthisis admitted through the Tuberculosis Bureau of the Public Health Department to Sanatoria was as follows:—Heatherton, 26; Greenvale, 11; Amherst, 17; and Austin Hospital, 24. At these institutions 29 deaths of City residents occurred, and are included in the total figures for the year. The notifications and deaths from Phthisis for the corresponding years are shown in the following table:—

Year	1913	1914	1915	*1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Notifications	156	158	124	120	105	107	100	94	96	78	94	89	96
Deaths	93	106	76	97	82	90	84	101	116	81	97	89	83

* Since 1916 deaths of City residents in the Austin Hospital have been included.

The deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis number 94, equivalent to a rate of .92 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population, compared with .95 per 1,000 in 1924. The Council's nurse paid 1,337 visits to the homes of cases and to patients who had been discharged from Sanatoria, distributing the leaflet of precautions against the disease, and advising the measures to be followed in order to prevent the spread of infection. In the case of 34, inspection of the home disclosed insanitary defects, for which notice under the Health Act was subsequently issued. The distribution of cases in the Wards of the City is shown in Table III, and a comparison of the death rate for all forms of Tuberculosis with that for former years is shown in Table I.

TABLE III.

Showing population and distribution of notified cases in the various Wards for 1925.

WARD	Albert	Bourke	Gipps	Hopetoun	Latrobe	Lonsdale	Smith	Victoria	Total for City
Estimated Mean Population	8,940	12,820	6,730	31,070	3,730	2,570	14,550	21,370	101,780
Scarlet Fever	4	4	4	42	1	—	11	23	89
Diphtheria	16	13	17	42	1	1	36	37	163
Typhoid Fever	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . .	5	12	15	22	—	1	21	20	96
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	2	11
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	4	13
Puerperal Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
Dysentery (Bacillary) . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	2	12
Encephalitis (Lethargic) . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tetanus	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following table shows the number of infants visited at their homes by the Council's nurse, with the method of feeding at the time the first visit was paid. Ninety per cent. of the children were being breast-fed.

Visits to Registrars	No. of Infants Visited	Breast-fed	Breast and Cow's Milk	Breast and Other Foods	Cow's Milk	Other Foods
438	1,212	1,096	40	—	56	20

The distribution of infants visited in Wards of the City was as follows:—

Albert	Bourke	Gipps	Hopetoun	Latrobe	Lonsdale	Smith	Victoria
4	124	2	558	2	1	339	182

The average age at which the first visit was paid to mothers and infants was eleven days, and it was found necessary to make 627 re-visits.

The special bottled supply of pasteurised milk from the Willsmere Milk Co. for infants attending City Baby Health Centres was again continued throughout the year. The supply was made available to 185 infants as follows:—Carlton Centre, 63; North Carlton Centre, 38; North Melbourne Centre, 60; and Flemington Centre, 24. The total cost of milk supplied was £790, and the amount recovered from the sale of coupons to mothers was £358/12/4, or slightly more than 45 per cent.

The following table is compiled from returns furnished by the four City Centres, which are controlled by the Victorian Baby Health Centres Association. Each Centre is subsidized by the Council:—

New babies enrolled	1,666
New babies; how fed—	
Breast	828
Mixed (breast and other foods)	589
Artificial	149
Babies weighed	13,241
Babies on roll who had died	33
Babies referred to Hospital	327
Babies referred to family doctor	276
Cases of gastro-enteritis seen	55
Cases of ophthalmia seen	28
Expectant mothers seen	771
Total number of attendances by mothers	5,670
Total number of visits by nurses to homes	9,019

Dr. Vera Scantlebury continued her work of visiting Centres, but obtained leave of absence at the beginning of November in order to visit New Zealand on behalf of the State Government, in order to investigate Infant Welfare work. Dr. Kate Campbell was appointed to carry out the duties during Dr. Scantlebury's absence, and presented a report on the work at the close of the year.

FOOD ADULTERATION.

In compliance with the Health Act, 326 samples of foods were purchased for purposes of analysis, comprising:—Milk, 289 samples; mustard, 12; white pepper, 11; ground ginger, 6; sausage meat, 6; powdered cinnamon, 1; and ground nutmeg, 1. Sixteen of the milk samples did not comply with the standard, but in none was any prohibited preservative found. A comparison with former years of the proportion of adulterated milk samples is shown in the following table:—

Year	Number of Samples of Milk Purchased	Number of Samples Adulterated	Percentage of Adulterated Samples
1908	264	50	18.9 per cent.
1909	218	18	8.2 "
1910	194	19	9.8 "
1911	196	15	7.6 "
1912	211	21	9.9 "
1913	292	13	4.4 "
1914	285	13	4.5 "
1915	294	29	9.8 "
1916	298	20	6.7 "
1917	277	19	6.8 "
1918	284	9	3.1 "
1919	296	23	7.7 "
1920	292	18	6.1 "
1921	261	17	6.5 "
1922	257	8	3.0 "
1923	274	14	5.1 "
1924	270	14	5.1 "
1925	289	16	5.5 "

The total number of adulterated samples of all foods was 19, including 3 of sausage meat, which contained preservative, and was not indicated on the label attached. The total fines and costs imposed for offences for food adulteration amounted to £87/2/6.

Twenty-eight seizures of food unfit for human consumption, or in contravention of the Health Act, were made, comprising confectionery, dried fruit, currants, prunes, fish, tinned fish, tea, honey, patent medicine, herbs, sugar of milk, dates, raisins, meal, green ginger, linseed meal, jam, cheese, weeties, butter beans, capers, nuts, tinned asparagus, bacon, self-raising flour, vinegar, fruit, and eggs. Nine seizures were also made of food utensils on account of their defective condition.

For all offences under the Health Act and Regulations concerned with food premises and food sold for human consumption, proceedings were taken in 42 cases, and the total fines and costs imposed amounted to £172/8/-.

NEW LEGISLATION.

During the year the following legislation issued by the Governor-in-Council under the Health Act came into operation in the city:—

- Offensive Trades Regulations 1925.
- Seizure (Claims Procedure) Regulations 1925.
- General Sanitary Regulations 1925.
- Amending Food and Drug Standards Regulations 1925.

ROUTINE DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

Disinfection by Council's Staff.—Number of Rooms: Scarlet Fever, 72; Diphtheria, 114; Tuberculosis, 96; Typhoid Fever, 2.

Medical certificates furnished by occupiers for room disinfection, 15. Bedding destroyed by owners, 7. Fees received for disinfection by Council's staff, £4/7/6.

Insanitary Premises.—Number reported for condemnation, 548; number demolished, 31; number repaired, 326; number work in progress, 191.

Stables reported for condemnation, 2; number demolished, 1; number discontinued, 1.

Eating Houses.—Number registered, 352; number refused registration, nil; number of inspections, 7,980; number partly reconstructed, 54; number abolished, 23; number of reports, 392; number of prosecutions, 11; fines and costs imposed, £62.

Manufacture of Ice Cream and Aerated waters, etc.—Number registered, 149; number of inspections, 2,069; number partly reconstructed, 4; number abolished, 12; number of reports, 158.

Other Food Premises.—Number of inspections, 7,887; number partly reconstructed, 54; number abolished, 14; number of prosecutions, 14. Fines and costs imposed, £31.

Boarding Houses.—Number registered, 674; number of inspections, 2,385; number partly reconstructed, 39; number abolished, 59; number of reports, 696.

Common Lodging Houses.—Number registered, 46; number of inspections, 587; number partly reconstructed, 3; number abolished, 7; number of reports, 51; number of prosecutions, 2. Fines and costs imposed, £20.

Hairdressers' Shops.—Number of inspections, 2,154; number partly reconstructed, 24; number abolished, 6; number of reports, 2; number of prosecutions, 3. Fines and costs imposed, £3.

Offensive Trades.—Number registered, 98; number of inspections, 698; new premises registered, 3; new premises erected, 1; number partly reconstructed, 7; number of reports, 107; notices under Regulations served and complied with, 8; number of prosecutions, 3. Fines and costs imposed, £5.

Cattle Sale Yards.—Number registered, 3; number refused registration, 1; number of inspections, 19; number of reports, 4.

Factories.—Number of applications for approval, 12; number approved (Health Act), 13; number of inspections, 175; number of reports, 17; total premises in City registered by Factories Department: Factories, 2,275; Shops, 3,987.

Rat Destruction.—Number of complaints, 222; number of premises visited, 2,452; number of rodents (rats and mice) taken, 10,346; structural work effected at premises for rat prevention, 151; notices under Rat Destruction Regulations served and complied with, 23; charges for rat destruction, £1,010/9/10; number of prosecutions, 4. Fines and costs imposed, £7.

Smoke Nuisance.—Number of complaints, 30; number of inspections and observations taken, 183; number of premises where alterations were effected for prevention of nuisance from smoke, 9 (including reconstructed furnaces, 5; oil fuel, 2; increased electric power, 1; special smoke consuming apparatus, 1).

Hospitals.—Number of private hospitals in City registered by Commission of Public Health, 24; number of inspections, 23; number of reports, 3.

Public Buildings.—Number of dancing saloons registered, 17; number of places of pastime registered, 3; number of day and evening inspections, 884; number of reports, 93; number of public buildings in City registered by Commission of Public Health, 53.

General.—Plans submitted for examination, 151; number of inspections of yards, 2526; of lanes, 426; number of notices served under By-law 117, 165; By-law 135, 100; By-law 150, 98; complaints received and attended to, 558; special complaints where females were employed received and attended to, 29; instructions served on householders for infectious disease, 369; for pulmonary tuberculosis, 166; special visits to cases in connection with poliomyelitis campaign, 52.

Returns furnished to Public Health Department for infectious diseases, 402; new registrations and transfers, 332.

Notices of infectious diseases sent to schoolmasters, 156; specifications of works sent to owners, agents, etc., 576; matters referred to City Engineer, 49; to Dog Inspector, 11.

I have the honor to be,

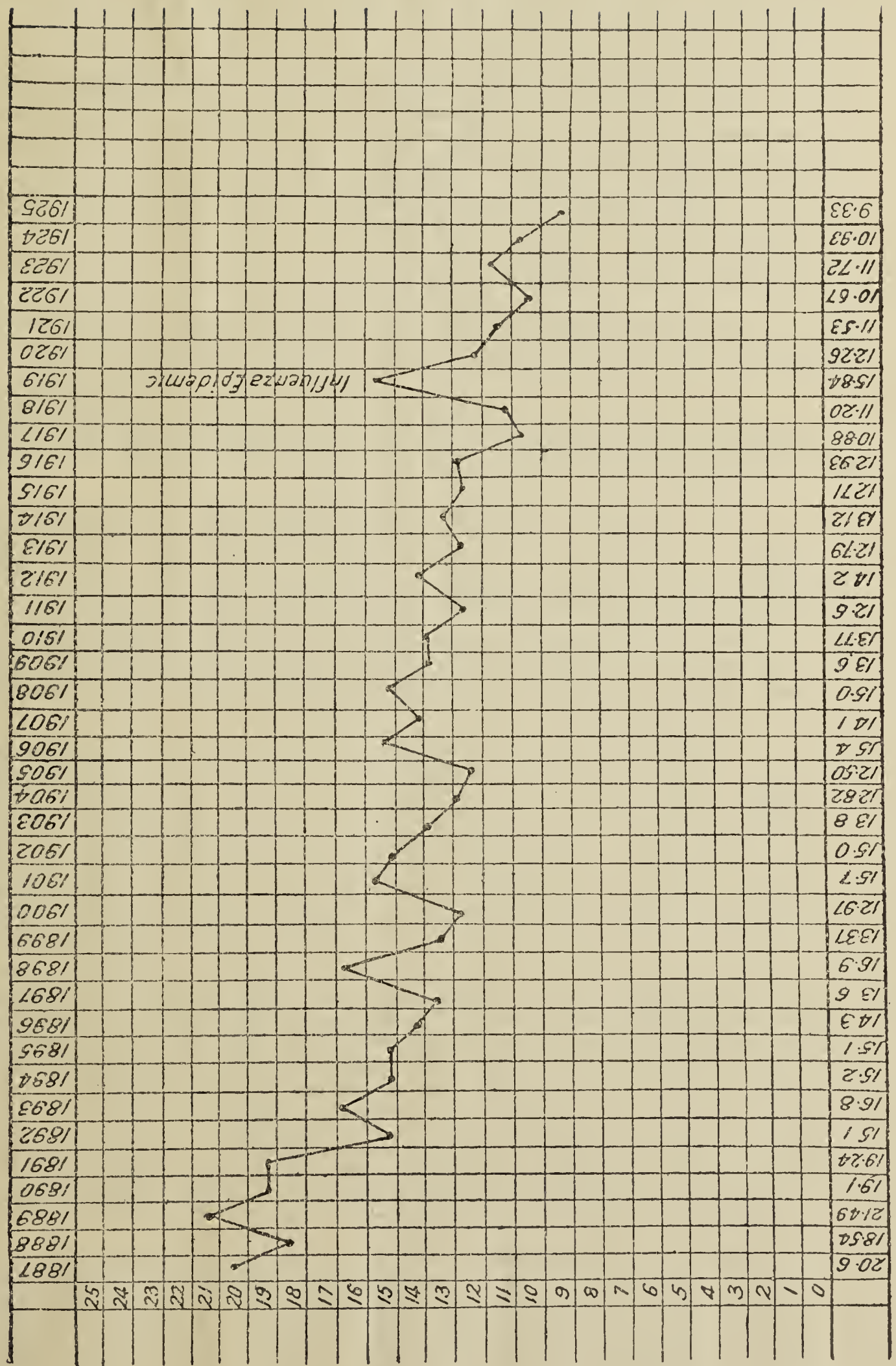
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. W. SINCLAIR, M.D., B.S. (Melb.), D.P.H. (Lond).,
Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health's Office,
9th March, 1926.

DIAGRAM SHOWING ANNUAL GENERAL DEATH RATE FROM ALL CAUSES PER 1000 LIVING IN
 THE CITY FOR THE YEARS 1887-1925 INCLUSIVE.



Medical Officer of Health's Office,
Town Hall, Melbourne,
9th March, 1926.

REPORT OF THE DIPHTHERIA CAMPAIGN FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The Medical Officer of Health,

Sir—I have the honor to present the second Annual Report of the Campaign against Diphtheria.

Throughout the year Schick Testing and Active Immunisation have been carried out amongst the children of the city.

In addition some members of the staff of the Children's and Queen Victoria Hospitals have also been treated.

Hospitalisation or home isolation of cases and swabbing of contacts have been carried out as in previous years.

Introductory Clinics.—During the month of January the clinics which had been opened in December, 1924, were continued. These did a valuable service in introducing the work to the people of each district.

Children's Hospital.—During the last nine months of the year clinics were held regularly at the Children's Hospital. Some difficulty was experienced in following up in-patients on their discharge from the wards, but arrangements are being made to meet it.

Institutions.—A letter was sent to the Secretaries of the different Children's Institutions of the City, offering to test and immunise the children under their care. At the Children's Welfare Depot, Royal Park, this was already being done by the Medical Superintendent. Four other institutions accepted the offer, and the inmates of them were treated.

Schools and Kindergartens.—Early in the year permission was obtained from the Education Department and authorities of the Catholic and Church of England Schools and Free Kindergarten Union for the work to be done in the schools and kindergartens of the City.

A detail list of the schools visited, and work done at each, is given in Table I. It was found impracticable to exclude from this table children tested in the last few weeks of 1924, so that it covers children tested between December, 1924, and 1st January. All the State Schools in the City were visited. Efforts will be made to extend the work in the Catholic schools next year. In Table II the children have been arranged in age groups. With the exception of the 14 and over age group, the subjects of the test come from a densely populated urban area. This has to be remembered when comparison is made with figures obtained elsewhere.

It was impossible, owing to lack of data, to include in Table I figures showing what percentage of parents allowed their children to be tested. In schools where an opportunity was given for an address to parents on the work, in addition to the distribution of pamphlets which was universally carried out, the response was much better than elsewhere. The support of local medical practitioners also improved the response.

Reaction to Injection.—A years' experience of the work has shown that, with moderate care, Schick Testing and Active Immunisation can be done with absolute freedom from unpleasant general reactions. Even sore arms occurred only very occasionally, and then, almost without exception, in older children or adults.

Efficacy of Immunisation.—Eighteen subjects, who had given a positive reaction and been immunised, were retested six months after immunisation. In one case a slight reaction was still present, and this child was given another immunising course, but has since left the city, so could not be followed up further. In the other cases the test had become negative.

Diphtheria Incidence.—The low incidence of the disease during 1925 has meant that parents are less willing to have their children treated, also that these new methods of protection have had a less severe trial than would have otherwise been the case.

Cases of Diphtheria among Tested Children.—Five cases of diphtheria occurred in children who had been shown to be liable to the disease, but had not been protected against it by immunisation. One case occurred in a child, who had given a positive test and had just commenced treatment, when she developed the disease. As the treatment has no effect for some weeks at least, she can be grouped with the previous five cases. One case occurred in a girl who had given a positive test and been immunised three months previous to her attack. Although a fair degree of immunity is usually developed in three months, it is now recognised that six months, or even longer, is frequently required before full protection is obtained. One case occurred in a boy recorded as not being liable to the disease. He had been dangerously ill with measles for over a week before the diphtheria developed. It is well known that measles greatly lowers a patient's resistance to diphtheria. It is of interest that the two last cases both occurred in orphanages, and that in neither instance did a secondary case of diphtheria occur. In addition to these children, a nurse recorded as giving a doubtful reaction developed diphtheria. Although as a routine controls are done on adults she had not had one, and she had failed to report for the second reading of her test as she had been requested to do.

Excluding two schools, many of whose pupils reside outside the city area, and allowing three months for the development of immunity, the total time in months of risk of infection to tested children was as follows:—

Schick + Immunised.	Schick + Not Immunised.	Schick Negative.
2,974	1,748	11,472

Amongst these the cases of diphtheria were:—

1	6	1
---	---	---

Therefore, on the figures for the year, a Schick Negative child is 38 times less liable to take diphtheria than a Schick Positive, and one immunised three months previously 11 times less likely to take it than one positive but not immunised.

TABLE I.

SCHOOLS and INSTITUTIONS																						
Total Tested				Schick Negative				Schick Positive				Fully Immunised				Partly Immunised		Not Immunised	% of Total Schick+ Immunised	% of Schick+ fully immunised	Date of Test	Date of Completion of Immunisation
Boys	Girls	Total	Pseudo	all types Boys	all types Girls	Total	Slight	Strong	all types Boys	all types Girls	Total	Schick+ Tested	Not Tested	Total Schick+ Tested	Total Schick+ Tested	Total Schick+ Tested						
Boundary Road State School	63	126	5	44	31	75	3	1	19	32	51	26	—	26	9	9	40.4	50.9	9/12/24	29/12/24		
Errol Street State School	133	290	7	97	88	185	9	17	36	69	105	77	1	78	10	10	36.2	73.3	3/4/25	11/5/25		
Faraday Street State School	57	117	—	40	39	79	2	8	17	21	38	25	—	25	1	1	32.4	65.7	18/6/25	13/7/25		
Flemington State School	69	150	9	32	42	74	7	12	37	39	76	35	—	35	4	6	50.7	46.5	10/8/25	16/9/25		
Grattan Street State School	7	12	—	5	2	7	2	—	2	3	5	3	—	3	—	—	41.7	60.0	3/3/25	22/7/25		
Kensington State School	211	392	7	141	108	249	24	48	70	73	143	75	—	75	30	30	36.4	52.4	8/5/25	10/9/25		
King Street State School	72	142	8	39	42	81	6	10	33	28	61	47	—	47	5	5	42.9	77.0	1/9/25	27/9/25		
Lee Street State School	105	211	8	56	62	118	15	23	39	54	93	52	—	52	10	10	44.0	55.9	2/7/25	17/8/25		
Princes Hill State School	139	277	2	62	51	113	7	5	77	87	164	122	—	122	20	20	59.2	74.4	14/8/25	8/9/25		
Queensberry Street State School	22	65	2	19	25	44	3	2	3	18	21	17	—	17	—	4	32.3	80.9	20/2/25	14/3/25		
Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, State School	55	125	2	41	41	82	7	1	14	29	43	27	2	29	6	6	34.4	62.8	25/2/25	1/4/25		
Rathdown Street State School	30	54	—	19	13	32	4	5	11	11	22	18	2	20	4	1	40.7	81.8	18/2/25	12/3/25		
South Yarra State School	99	200	5	52	52	104	28	7	47	49	96	57	—	57	17	17	48.0	59.4	17/6/25	18/7/25		
Yarra Park State School	103	221	13	50	47	97	14	9	53	71	124	81	—	81	10	10	56.1	65.3	14/9/25	9/10/25		
Holy Rosary Catholic School	45	98	3	26	25	51	9	6	19	28	47	43	—	43	2	2	47.9	91.5	5/3/25	3/4/25		
St. Brendan's Catholic School	28	49	4	14	12	26	—	5	14	9	23	11	—	11	5	5	46.9	47.8	22/9/25	19/10/25		
St. Francis' Catholic School	24	38	1	15	6	21	6	2	9	8	17	11	—	11	—	—	44.7	64.7	3/3/25	6/4/25		
St. Michael's Catholic School	1	4	—	1	2	3	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	8/12/24	29/12/24		
South Yarra Convent	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
St. Peter's C. of E. School	37	69	7	25	18	43	—	—	12	14	26	19	—	19	6	6	—	—	12/11/25	10/12/25		
Presbyterian Ladies' College	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Bouverie Street Kindergarten	56	96	1	27	19	46	1	1	29	21	50	45	—	45	2	2	52.1	90	20/3/25	16/4/25		
St. James' C. of E. Kindergarten	20	43	—	10	5	15	6	3	10	18	28	20	—	20	3	3	65.1	71.4	—	23/6/25		
St. Jude's C. of E. Kindergarten	7	9	—	2	1	3	—	1	5	1	6	—	—	—	4	4	66.6	incomplete	—	—		
St. Martin's C. of E. Kindergarten	6	13	—	—	2	2	2	1	6	11	17	11	—	11	5	5	89.5	64.7	19/3/25	8/4/25		
St. Mary's C. of E. Kindergarten	14	25	—	8	5	13	—	—	6	6	12	4	1	5	4	4	48.0	33.3	23/10/25	—		
Howard St. Methodist Kindergarten	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	—		
Alice Clarke Home	9	32	1	8	11	19	1	6	1	12	13	13	2	15	—	—	40.6	100	3/6/25	22/6/25		
Kildonan Home	27	49	1	20	9	29	2	3	7	13	20	19	—	19	1	2	40.8	95	10/2/25	26/2/25		
Leonard Street Home	13	40	—	7	15	22	4	1	6	12	18	18	11	29	—	—	45.0	100	—	16/3/25		
Sutherland Home	7	13	1	1	2	3	1	2	6	4	10	10	8	18	—	—	76.1	100	17/12/25	3/1/25		
North Melbourne Creche	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	25/11/25		
Children's Hospital Patients	87	178	10	55	49	104	5	7	32	42	74	26	—	26	13	13	41.6	35.1	—	—		
Hospital Staffs	5	48	7	3	18	21	—	—	2	25	27	7	—	7	9	9	56.2	25.9	—	—		
Others	23	65	6	14	21	35	3	4	9	21	30	28	28	56	2	6	46.1	93.3	—	—		
Totals	1564	3259	110	933	864	1797	201	191	631	831	1462	949	62	1011	182	198	44.8	61.8	—	—		

TABLE II.

REACTION	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 and over
Negative	—	12	33	111	168	225	269	298	218	122	69	48	26
Pseudo-negative	—	—	—	2	3	10	9	24	18	12	12	5	12
Slight Positive	—	3	7	11	26	25	22	20	19	14	11	8	21
Positive	7	40	89	135	148	135	135	120	98	31	17	13	25
Strong Positive	2	8	7	24	29	33	24	25	19	5	2	2	1
Very Strong Positive	—	—	2	—	3	1	1	1	4	1	—	—	—
Positive Combined	—	1	—	2	4	4	2	4	4	2	1	3	6
Totals	9	64	138	285	381	433	462	492	380	187	112	79	74

Percentage Incidence—													
Negative	—	18.7	23.9	39.0	44.1	51.9	58.2	60.5	57.4	65.2	61.6	60.7	35.1
Pseudo-negative	—	—	—	0.6	0.7	2.3	1.9	4.9	4.7	6.4	10.7	6.3	16.2
Slight Positive	—	4.7	5.0	3.8	6.8	5.7	4.8	4.0	5.0	7.4	9.8	10.1	5.4
Strong Positive	22.2	12.5	6.5	8.1	8.4	7.8	5.4	5.2	5.8	3.2	1.7	2.5	1.3
Positive Combined	—	1.5	—	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	3.8	8.1
Total Negative	—	18.7	23.9	39.6	44.9	54.2	60.1	65.4	62.1	71.6	72.3	67.1	51.3
Total Positive	100	81.3	76.1	60.4	55.1	45.8	39.9	34.6	37.9	28.4	27.7	32.9	48.7

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Yours most respectfully,
A. D. HENSLEY, M.B., B.S. (Melb.).

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
BACTERIOLOGY LABORATORY.

19th February, 1926.

Report on Bacteriological Examinations undertaken on behalf of the
Melbourne City Council for the year ended December 31, 1925.

The principal investigation was in relation to the bacteriological condition of Ice Cream supplied sold in the City. Ten samples were examined, collected at two different periods, and the result of the examination is as follows:—

No. of Sample.	Date of Collection.	Number of micro-organisms per c.c.	Presence of Excremental bacteria, bacillus coli in 1 drop (1/25 c.c.)
No. 1	October 15, 1925	2,052,000	—
No. 2	" "	280,000	—
No. 3	" "	684,000	+
No. 4	" "	891,000	+
No. 5	" "	142,000	—
	Average	809,000	
No. 6	November 17, 1925	1,053,000	+
No. 7	" "	153,000	+
No. 8	" "	292,000	+
No. 9	" "	102,000	+
No. 10	November 30, 1925	270,000	+
	Average	374,000	

Remarks.—Although the weather was much warmer at the time of the second sampling, the average number of micro-organisms per c.c. is less than that obtained in the October examination. The high figures obtained with several of the samples are associated with considerable numbers of lactic acid organisms indicating staleness in the supply. If the ingredients used in making ice cream are heated beforehand, one would expect much lower averages all through. If ice cream is allowed to thaw, numbers of bacteria multiply considerably, and such thawed ice cream should not be re-frozen.

The remaining examinations consist of investigation of suspected cases of Diphtheria and Meningitis and carriers. The results obtained were as under:—

Disease.	No. of Swabs.	Positive.	Suspicious.
Diphtheria	517	6	1
C.S. Meningitis	5	Nil.	Nil.

(Signed) R. J. BULL, M.D., B.S. (Melb.),
Director, Bacteriological Laboratory.

MELBOURNE ANALYTICAL LABORATORY,
193 Collins Street, Melbourne,
January 14, 1926.

The Chairman, Health Committee, City of Melbourne.

Sir,

We have the honour to report that, during the year ended December 31, 1925, we have received 326 samples of Food and Drugs. The following is a brief summary of the results obtained by the Analytical Examinations:—

Milk—289 samples	273 complied with the standard. 4 below in their percentages of total solids, solids not fat and fatty solids (milk fats). 7 below in their percentages of total solids and fatty solids (milk fats). 1 below in its percentage of solids not fat. 4 below in their percentages of solids (milk fats).
Mustard—12 samples	Complied with the standard.
White Pepper—11 samples	Complied with the standard.
Ground Ginger—6 samples	Complied with the standard.
Ground Nutmeg—1 sample	Complied with the standard.
Powdered Cinnamon—1 sample	Complied with the standard.
Sausage Meat—6 samples	Contained, respectively, a trace, and 0.6, 1.7, 2.8, 3.5 and 8.8 grains of sulphur dioxide to the pound. No boric acid, saltpetre, or excess of starch was detected in the samples.

Yours obediently,

DUNN & SON,
Analysts to the City of Melbourne.



Presented by

The Town Clerk

August

1926